



Brownfields 2017 Job Training Grant Fact Sheet

OAI Inc., Chicago, IL

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. In 2002, the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act was passed to help states and communities around the country cleanup and revitalize brownfields sites. Under this law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant funds are provided to nonprofit organizations and other eligible entities to recruit, train, and place residents from solid and hazardous waste-impacted communities, including low-income and minority, unemployed, and underemployed individuals. To date, EPA has funded 274 job training grants totaling over \$57 million through the Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training program. As of May 2017, more than 16,300 individuals have completed training, and of those, almost 12,000 have obtained employment in the environmental field, an average starting wage of over \$14 an hour. This equates to a cumulative placement rate of approximately 73% since the program was created in 1998.

Job Training Grant

\$200,000.00

EPA has selected OAI, Inc. for an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant. OAI plans to train 45 students and place at least 40 graduates in environmental jobs. The core training program includes 1,080 hours of instruction in: 40-hour HAZWOPER; HAZWOPER refresher; OSHA general industry safety; first aid/CPR; defensive driving; green infrastructure; integrated pest management; ecological restoration, plant identification, and landscape maintenance; and Chicago wilderness burn, urban forestry. Participants who complete the training program will earn one state and three federal certifications. OAI is targeting ex-offenders, minorities, and veterans living in HUD-designated empowerment zones and surrounding renewal communities in the west, lower west, and south sides of Chicago. Key partners include Chicago Department of Transportation, WRD Environmental, Forest Preserves of Cook County, City of Chicago Department of Fleet and Facility Management, Signature Staffing Resources, Republic Services, Applied Ecological Services, Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Chicago Park District, Literacy Chicago, Youth Guidance, North Lawndale Employment Network, and Little Village Environmental Justice Organization.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>).

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
(312) 886-3009

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Web site
(<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-and-land-revitalization-illinois-indiana-michigan-minnesota-ohio-and>)

Grant Recipient: OAI, Inc., IL
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The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.